

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-26 were pending in this application.

The specification is objected to because on page 1, in the first paragraph, the status of United States Patent Application No. 09/887,898 should be updated to U.S. Patent No. 6,732,971.

Claim 16 is objected to because of an informality.

Claims 1-19 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards at the invention.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 18-21, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Luciani, U.S. Patent No. 4,982,908 (Hereinafter "Luciani").

Claims 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luciani.

Claims 3, 4, and 22 are objected to a being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in suitable independent form.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, and 22. Applicant expressly reserves the right to rewrite claims 3, 4, and 22 in independent form should the base claim ultimately not be allowed.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 16, 20, 21, 22, and 24 to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification. The Examiner's objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's Reply to the
Informality Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 16 because of an informality. Applicant has amended claim 16 in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner to fully recite the claim language instead of using reference characters. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 16 be withdrawn.

Applicant's Reply to the
Indefiniteness Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

More particularly, the Examiner rejected claim 1 for having the term "removably fixed," claim 6 for having the terms "removably secured" and "said of said," claim 7 for having the term "removably secured," and claims 21, 22, and 24 for having the term "releasably fixing." Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections and submits that the terms "removably fixed," "removably secured," and "releasably fixing" are not indefinite.

However, in order to advance prosecution, applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 21, 22, and 24 and has substituted appropriate forms of "detachable" for these terms. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 7, 21, 22, and 24, as amended, are not indefinite, and respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Applicant's Reply to the
Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 18-21, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Luciani. The Examiner also rejected claims 8-17 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luciani. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as defined by amended independent claims 1 and 20, is directed toward a wire-winding machine and a method for winding wire coils on a machine component using a winding machine. The winding machine has at least two component assembly stations and at least one support member configured to rotate about an axis of rotation to transfer a machine component between the assembly stations. The support member has a distal portion facing away from the axis of rotation. The machine also has a machine housing component positioned on a distal portion of the support member and projecting from the distal portion of the support member away from the axis of rotation. The reference cited by the Examiner neither shows nor suggests the invention as defined by independent claims 1 and 20.

Luciani refers to a machine for winding two-pole electric motor stators. The machine includes a revolving table that rotates about a vertical axis and housings for holding the stators during the winding that are arranged on the revolving table. Luciani, column 2, line 43 through column 3, line 13.

The Examiner contends that Luciani shows all of the elements of applicant's independent claims 1 and 20. Applicant respectfully submits that Luciani does not show or suggest all of the elements of applicant's amended claims 1 and 20. In particular, Luciani shows the stator housings

attached to a table that rotates about a vertical axis. Thus, the housing of Luciani is attached to a surface of a support structure that faces the direction of the axis of rotation. Further, the housing projects from the support structure in the direction of the axis of rotation. In contrast, applicant's claims require that the housing is positioned on a distal portion of the support structure that faces away from the axis of rotation and that the housing projects away from the axis of rotation. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 20 are allowable over Luciani.

For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 20, dependent claims 2, 5-19, 21, and 23-26, which depend from independent claim 1 and 20, are also allowable.

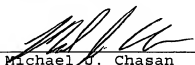
Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5-21, and 23-26 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael U. Chasan
Registration No. 54,026
Agent for Applicant
FISH & NEAVE LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
(212) 596-9000